

Legion Is Expected To Continue Battle With Gen. Bradley

By George Beveridge
Star Staff Correspondent
SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 5.—As the American Legion's 28th annual convention drew to a close this week, a number of issues arising from the dispute with Veterans Administration Bradley took form that will bear close watch during the coming year.

First of all, Gen. Bradley charged the veterans with their responsibility as citizens, he emphasized that within a short time there will be nearly twenty million ex-servicemen, "nearly half of the entire male adult population."

Legion Counters View.
The Legion, however, countered this concept with the insistence that the Nation's strongest responsibility now is to the "citizen-veterans" as veterans.

At the same time, the Legion emphasized that it considers the job-training program, made a part of the GI bill, its own "baby," and that it resents not having a big voice in any changes in it. At a session late this week, the organization brought up its smoothest legal trouble-shooter, former Commander Harry Colmery, to present this view.

Conceding that recommendations for the ceiling was a "responsibility of administration," Mr. Colmery charged that it was "an unfair action" to change a piece of legislation conceived and given birth by the American Legion without Legion consideration.

Wouldn't Be "Dictated To."
Obviously irritated by the Legion's position, Gen. Bradley later pointed out that under law he was empowered to establish the ceiling without any other approval and issued the flat statement that "I refuse to be dictated to."

Based on its principal objections to the training limitations on charges that the amendment was "sneaked through" a dying Congress, the Legion has thrown its powerful lobby into an all-out fight for repeal. On his part, Gen. Bradley disclosed that a "thorough" study of the justice of the ceilings is under way, results of the study will form the basis for changes in the ceilings if any are needed.

While establishment of the training restrictions was the apparent immediate cause of the attack on Gen. Bradley by John Stelle, retiring commander, the general kept his attack primarily on a personal basis in answering Mr. Stelle's charges. The organization's new chief, Paul H. Griffith, of Washington, D. C., and Uniontown, Pa., has declared he hopes the "personal clashes" are at an end.

Bonus Still Alive.
On another angle, veterans' benefits, the Legion refrained from endorsing a bonus, but convention action indicated the bonus move is by no means dead.

While spokesmen pointed out that the Legion campaigned for the

Economists Talk of Depression, Mild and Brief, in Year or Two.

By the Associated Press
Economists here noted signs last night which they said could point to a depression for late 1947 or early 1948, but a mild and brief one.

Everett Hagen, chief economist of the National Planning Association, a non-governmental research organization, told a reporter that "there are forces which could bring a softening of demand in the first half of the year" and possibly increase today's phenomenally low unemployment by 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 persons.

Louis Paradiso, Commerce Department economist, saw consumer demand strong enough to carry the high level of business activity well into next year and perhaps into 1948 but commented that "the situation is likely to be vulnerable next year."

Days of 1920 Recalled.
Another Government economist reported "certain danger signals which should be watched" because of some similarities to "prebust" days of 1920.

But he noted that business might grow even more vigorous if prices were held under control. He added that businessmen were "more aware of instability than in 1920; they are all becoming economists now. Whether their caution will hasten a recession or serve to slow it down, I do not know."

Growing watchfulness was evident in other quarters.
1. The Agriculture Department reported meat demand might slacken 12 or 15 months hence because consumer income is expected to turn downward in late 1947 or early 1948.

2. The AFL "Labor's Monthly Survey" currently reports that the GI bill as a bonus substitute, considerable support was given a resolution introduced by Illinois delegates calling for an automatic bonus of \$50 a month for all veterans of all wars of reaching the age of 50 years. At the age of 60, under the proposal, the amount would be boosted to \$85. The motion brought heated debate but was decisively defeated.

The status of World War II members of the Legion was virtually no issue at the convention. The younger members apparently are satisfied that take over leadership by force of numbers as they gain experience. The World War II veterans were given a majority of the organization's vice-commander posts. Seven of their number also were appointed to an all-War II permanent Housing Committee—its principal representation in national activities for the coming year.

20 Per Cent Representation.
The World War II members were able to muster only an estimated 20 per cent representation among delegates, which has come in for strong criticism from old-line Legionnaires in light of their membership majority.

The younger Legionnaires point out that even if they were elected delegates, few of their ranks would be financially able to make a trip to the West Coast.

As it turned out, San Franciscans were amazed at the numerically disappointing Legion invasion and by the delegates' "restraint."

Postwar Celebration Mild.
Expecting an all-out display of pranks and rowdiness, parties and street carnivals, they saw the organization's much publicized "postwar celebration" in evidence only by circles of craps shooters outside hotels, a few isolated practical jokes on street corners with water pistols and the abnormally crowded hotel lobbies.

While the city estimates the legion left some two million dollars here, officials report that about 25,000 housing places were unused, and one spokesman said the Legionnaires were "broke" to the point that the bars just didn't make any money.

City newspapers also have been carrying on front-page feud with Convention Director Joe Lumpkin, following a statement blaming everything from crowded hotel facilities to California weather for the disappointing crowd. At the convention's opening, the Legion estimated that "most" of an expected 150,000 visitors had arrived. The real feud began, however, when Mr. Lumpkin said that "this is the last time a national convention will ever come to the West Coast."



WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.—DIES AS PLANE CRASHES WIFE'S HOME—Firemen work to remove wreckage of biplane that crashed between two buildings in the business section here yesterday. The pilot, Raymond Heraux, 33, died in the crash. His estranged wife lived in one of the buildings hit.

—AP Wirephoto.

Delaware Educator Heads Area Kiwanis

M. Channing Wagner, assistant superintendent of secondary education at Wilmington, Del., was unanimously voted Capital District Governor of Kiwanis International at the conclusion of the group's twenty-eighth annual convention yesterday. He succeeds Claude B. Hellmuth, Baltimore, who was governor for the past year.

Frank B. Walters, Roanoke, Va., was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Lieutenant governors chosen to represent the various district divisions are:

O. J. Hale, Cumberland, Md.; Everett Carter, Danville, Va.; Robert W. Cuthall, Roanoke; Walter J. Wilkins, Norfolk; Ralph Query, Covington, Va.; John Thomas, Annapolis, Md.; H. R. Baker, Dover, Del.; and J. D. Kerr, Saltville, Va.

Roanoke was selected as the site for the 1947 district convention after delegates from Wilmington, which had been scheduled as the host city—said sufficient hotel accommodations would not be available there.

The three-day convention opened last Thursday at the Mayflower Hotel. Among the principal speakers were Commissioner John Russell Young, the Rev. John W. Rustin of Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church, J. Belmont Mosser, Kiwanis International treasurer, Robert M. McClintock, special assistant in the State Department, and Brig. Gen. B. M. Pitch, acting assistant adjutant general, United States Army.

Ugo Carusi to Speak
Ugo Carusi, United States Commissioner General of Immigration and Naturalization, will be the principal speaker at a post-Columbus Day celebration next Sunday sponsored by the Garibaldi-Columbia Lodge No. 1008 of the Order Sons of Italy in America. The program will be held at 11 a.m. at Union Station plaza, Columbus Day is Saturday.

More than 20 American firms are setting up in business in Australia.

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Men Who Guarded Wartime A-Bomb Secret Discuss Old Times in Informal Reunion Here

By Herman Schaden

The men who hung an iron curtain around the atomic bomb while the Manhattan Engineering District perfected it met in reunion at the Statler Hotel last night.

For lawyers, as most of them were before joining the intelligence and security division of the project, they were almost as uncommunicative about the bomb as they were during the days when their "baby" was one of the closest guarded secrets in history.

But Claude C. Pierce, Jr., 4113 Fourth street North, Arlington, said he expressed the convictions of most of the group when he pointed to the Baruch plan as the way to harness the bomb as a weapon of war.

Served as Major.
Now an attorney in the Internal Revenue Bureau, Mr. Pierce served as a major and one of the top assistants to former Col. John Lansdale, Jr., of Cleveland, chief of intelligence during the bomb's development.

"There is something to be said about Henry Wallace's talk about necessity for co-operation with Russia," he said, "but there is a point beyond which we cannot go for our own protection."

He thought much depended on how far the Army and science have progressed toward putting atomic energy to work for industry. And he emphasized the need for taking this phase of development away from the War Department as soon as the Baruch plan is instituted.

Started With Suggestions.
Most of them back in civilian clothes and practicing law or pursuing other professions a little more than a year after Hiroshima's destruction, the men who kept the bomb secret came together again on a sort of impulse. It grew from a few suggestions for such a reunion, and was activated by 30 penny post cards mailed to "Manhattan Engineer" intelligence men living east of the Mississippi River.

The cards were mailed by Joseph Volpe, Jr., of Newark, N. J., another attorney high on the list of men who safeguarded the bomb. He proposed the reunion become an annual event, with officers to keep the association alive.

Maj. Gen. Leslie Groves, top man in Manhattan project, was on hand, as were former Col. Lansdale, and another of his ranking assistants, former Col. William A. Considine, of Newark, N. J.

Most of the "alumni" looked about

the same age as Mr. Lansdale, who was 30 years old when he became top-kick in the Manhattan intelligence division.

"Before that I was chief of the investigative branch of the military intelligence division of the War Department general staff," he laughed. "That's a high-sounding title, but it wasn't so much. I was a first lieutenant, and an attorney with no previous intelligence experience."

He was working on a special assignment for Dr. J. B. Conant, one of the chief figures in the bomb development, when he was asked in August, 1942, to head up the intelligence on the bomb.

Like the others, Mr. Lansdale does not talk about the mechanics of keeping the bomb secret. "I think we kept the secret—from the Germans and from the Russians, too," he said.

Expect Atom Control.
Some of the security men never saw a bomb explode. Others, like John A. Derry, 1006 Elm avenue, Takoma Park, Md., saw the Bikini experiments. He deputed them as "stupendous, magnificent," but like others in the reunion, he felt there would come a means of controlling the greatest force on earth.

At the get-together was Dr. Henry Wensel, now chief of the scientific branch of the War Department General Staff and one of the atom bomb technical staff.

"The intelligence men had their 'scars,' but none more acute than Dr. Wensel suffered early in 1942 when he was helping to enroll a technical staff."

Took "U-235 Test."
In his mail came a letter from a man who said he wanted a job and had just passed a U-235 test given by civil service.

Dr. Wensel was alarmed. Uranium 235 was the then secret material from which the bomb was to be developed. Quickly he telephoned the Civil Service examiner to learn about the "examination" which ostensibly had been thrown open to every one.

Only when he was informed that U-235 meant "unassembled civil

service test No. 235" and that the applicant was applying for a junior physicist's job in the Office of Scientific Research and Development, did Dr. Wensel breathe easily again.

Schools Get Notices On Lunch Program

Applications for participation in the school lunch program during the present school term have been sent to all District public schools, Lawson J. Cantrell, associate superintendent of schools, said last night.

His statement followed the announcement by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson yesterday that agreements covering the operation of the National School Lunch Program had been signed in each of the 48 States, the District and the territories.

Commenting on the program, Mr. Anderson said: "Through the National School Lunch Act, Congress outlined a broad policy of assisting the States in seeing that our children get adequate and nutritious lunches which will build their health and lead to better food habits. It also recognized the basic principle of improving farm income by providing wider outlets for farm production, at the same time improving the national health."

Mr. Anderson added that it was now up to the States and local communities to provide the understanding and support which will develop the program's full potentialities. Under the program, lunches are given either free to children or at a reduced cost with the States meeting part of the cost and the National Government the rest.

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